

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007 has been reviewed, along with the art cited. Claims 1, 7, 8 and 47 have been amended. Claims 6 and 48 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-47 and 49 through 70 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

To further the present application to issue as a patent, the Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 8 and 47. The Applicant retains to the right to file a continuation application, while the current application is pending, with claims having a similar scope as originally filed.

In particular, the Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the aspects of objected claim 6 and independent claim 47 to include the aspects of objected to claim 48. Independent claim 8 was also amended to include aspects set out by the Examiner as patentable. Claim 8 was omitted in the Office Action of January 12, 2007.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-46 and 57-70 were allowed over prior art.

Claims 6-9, 10, and 48-56 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Serial No.: 09/990,023

Filing Date: 11/21/2001

Attorney Docket No. 100.349US01

Title: PROTECTION SWITCHING MECHANISM

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-47 and 49 through 70 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 12, 2007

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